*In the claims:*

Please amend the claims as indicated hereafter.


1. (Previously Presented)  A communication system, comprising:

a plurality of clients;

a plurality of network elements; and

an element management system (EMS) interfaced with the clients and the network elements, the EMS configured to track which of the network elements are of interest to the clients, the EMS further configured to automatically poll the network elements based on which of the network elements are determined, by the EMS, to be of interest to the clients, the EMS further configured to provide the clients with information indicative of the polled elements.


2. (Previously Presented)  The communication system of claim 1, wherein the EMS is configured to detect a change in a state of one of the polled elements and to provide one of the clients with information indicative of the state in response to the detected change.


3. (Previously Presented)  The communication system of claim 1, wherein the EMS is configured to detect a change in a state of one of the polled elements, and wherein the EMS is further configured to identify which of the clients are interested in the one polled element and to provide each of the identified clients with information indicative of the state in response to the detected change.


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4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the EMS is configured to identify which of the clients are interested in one of the network elements and to provide each of the identified clients with information indicative of a state of the one network element.

5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 4, wherein the EMS is configured to transmit the information indicative of the state of the one network element to each of the identified clients in response to a determination, by the EMS, that the state has changed.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the EMS is configured to store graphical user interface (GUI) code defining a GUI associated with one of the network elements, the EMS configured to retrieve the GUI code in response to a request received from one of the clients and to transmit the retrieved GUI code to the one client, wherein the request identifies the one network element.

7. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein the EMS is configured to enable a user to update the stored GUI code, and wherein the EMS is further configured to detect an update to the stored GUI code and to transmit the updated GUI code to the one client in response to a detection of the update.

8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, wherein the EMS is configured to maintain data indicative of which of the clients are interested in which of the network elements, the EMS configured to update the data in response to the request.

9.  (Previously Presented)  The system of claim 8, wherein the one client is configured to display the GUI based on the GUI code transmitted to the one client, the one client further configured to close the displayed GUI in response to a user input and to transmit a message to the EMS upon closing the displayed GUI, wherein the EMS is configured to update the data in response to the message.

10.  (Previously Presented)  The system of claim 9, wherein the one client is configured to discard the GUI code transmitted to the one client upon closing the displayed GUI.

11-16.  (Canceled)

17.  (Previously Presented)  A method for managing elements of a communication network, comprising the steps of:

> tracking which of the network elements are of interest to a plurality of clients;

> automatically polling the network elements based on the tracking step; and

> providing the clients with information indicative of the polled elements.

18.  (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of:

> detecting a change in a state of one of the polled elements based on the polling step,

> wherein the providing step includes the step of providing one of the clients with information indicative of the state in response to the detecting step.

19. (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

detecting a change in a state of one of the polled elements; and

identifying which of the clients are interested in the one polled element based on the tracking step,

wherein the providing step includes the step of providing each of the identified clients with information indicative of the state in response to the detecting step.

20. (Original)  The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of:

identifying which of the clients are interested in one of the network elements based on the tracking step,

wherein the providing step includes the step of transmitting, to each of the identified clients, information indicative of a state of the one network element based on the identifying step.

21. (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of:

detecting a change in a state of the one polled element,

wherein the transmitting step is performed in response to the detecting step.

22. (Original)  The method of claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

storing graphical user interface (GUI) code remotely from the clients, the GUI code defining a GUI associated with one of the network elements;

retrieving the GUI code in response to a request received from one of the clients; and

transmitting the retrieved GUI code to the one client,

wherein the request identifies the one network element.

23. (Original)  The method of claim 22, further comprising the steps of:

enabling a user to update the stored GUI code;

detecting an update to the stored GUI code; and

transmitting the updated GUI code to the one client in response to the detecting step.

24. (Original)  The method of claim 22, further comprising the steps of:

maintaining data indicative of which of the clients are interested in which of the network

elements; and

updating the data in response to the request.

25. (Original)  The method of claim 24, further comprising the steps of:

displaying a GUI at the one client based on the GUI code transmitted in the transmitting

step;

receiving a user input,

closing the displayed GUI in response to the user input; and

updating the data in response to the closing step.

26. (Original)  The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of:

discarding, in response to the closing step, the GUI code transmitted to the one client.

27. (Previously Presented) The communication system of claim 1, wherein the EMS is configured to begin polling at least one of the network elements in response to a determination by the EMS that at least one of the clients is currently interested in the at least one network element.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) The communication system of claim [[28]] 1, wherein the EMS is configured to poll at least one of the network elements in response to a determination that at least one of the clients is interested in the at least one network element.

30. (Previously Presented) The communication system of claim 1, wherein the EMS is configured to receive, from one of the clients, a command for changing a configuration of one of the network elements identified by the command, and wherein the EMS is configured to change the configuration of the one network element in response to the command.

31. (Previously Presented) The communication system of claim 30, wherein the EMS is configured to transmit, in response to the command, a notification of the change in the configuration of the one network element to each of the clients determined by the EMS to be interested in the one network element.

32. (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 17, wherein the polling step comprises the step of: initiating polling of at least one of the network elements in response to a determination that at least one of the clients is currently interested in the at least one network element.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously Presented)  The communication system of claim 29, wherein the EMS is configured to ping the at least one client to determine whether the at least one client is still interested in the at least one network element.

35. (Previously Presented)  The communication system of claim 34, wherein the EMS is configured to stop polling the at least one network element in response to a determination that the at least one client is no longer interested in the at least one network element.

36. (Previously Presented)  The communication system of claim 29, wherein the EMS is configured to stop polling the at least one network element in response to a determination that the at least one client is no longer interested in the at least one network element.

37.  (Previously Presented)  The communication system of claim 36, wherein the EMS is configured to store graphical user interface (GUI) code defining a GUI associated with the at least one network element, the EMS configured to retrieve the GUI code in response to a request received from the at least one client and to transmit the retrieved GUI code to the at least one client, wherein the request identifies the at least one network element.

38.  (Previously Presented)  The communication system of claim 37, wherein the at least one client is configured to display the GUI based on the GUI code, the one client configured to close the displayed GUI in response to a user input, wherein the determination that the at least one client is no longer interested in the at least one network is based on closing of the displayed GUI.

39.  (Previously Presented)  The communication system of claim 1, wherein the EMS is configured to maintain data indicative of which of the network elements are currently of interest to the clients, and wherein the EMS is configured to select, based on the data, which of the network elements are to be automatically polled.

40.  (Previously Presented)  The communication system of claim 39, wherein one of the clients is configured to run graphical user interface (GUI) code defining a GUI associated with one of the network elements, and wherein the EMS is configured to update the data to indicate that the one client is not interested in the one network element in response to a user closing the GUI associated with the one network element.

41. (Previously Presented)  The communication system of claim 40, wherein the EMS is configured to transmit the GUI code to the one client in response to a request received from the one client.

42. (Previously Presented)  The communication system of claim 41, wherein the EMS is configured to update the data in response to the request such that the data indicates that the one client is interested in the one network element.

43. (Previously Presented)  The communication system of claim 1, wherein the EMS is configured to maintain data indicative of which of the network elements are currently of interest to the clients, and wherein the EMS is configured to periodically poll at least one of the network elements, based on the data, if the data indicates that the at least one network element is of interest to at least one of the clients.

44. (Previously Presented)  The communication system of claim 43, wherein the at least one network element comprises a communication device having a data rate, and wherein the EMS is configured to periodically discover the data rate by periodically polling the at least one network element.

45. (Currently Amended) The communication system of claim 1, wherein the EMS is configured to automatically and repetitively poll at least one of the network elements as long as at least one of the clients remains interested in the at least one network element, and wherein the EMS is configured to stop automatic polling of the at least one network element in response to a determination that none of the clients are currently interested in the at least one network element.

46. (New) A communication system, comprising:

clients;

network elements, the network elements comprising a first plurality and a second plurality; and

an element management system (EMS) interfaced with the clients and the network elements, the EMS configured to define an instance of client profile data indicating which of the network elements are currently of interest to at least one of the clients, the instance of the client profile data indicating that each of the first plurality of the network elements are currently of interest to at least one of the clients, wherein the EMS, after defining the instance of the client profile data, is configured to automatically and repetitively poll, based on the client profile data, each of the first plurality of the network elements regardless of whether the EMS receives a message from any of the clients indicating an interest in any of the first plurality of the network elements.

47. (New)  The communication system of claim 46, wherein the EMS, based on the client profile data, automatically polls each of the first plurality of the network elements without polling any of the second plurality of the network elements, and wherein the instance of the client profile data does not indicate that any of the second plurality of the network elements is of interest to any of the clients.

48. (New)  The communication system of claim 46, wherein the EMS, based on the client profile data, is configured to refrain from polling any of the second plurality of the network elements until the client profile data is updated to indicate that at least one of the clients is interested in at least one of the second plurality of the network elements.

49. (New)  The communication system of claim 46, wherein the plurality of clients comprise at least a first client and a second client, the client profile data indicating that one of the first plurality of the network elements is of interest to the first client, wherein the EMS is configured to update, in response to a determination that the first client did not respond to a ping from the EMS, the client profile data to indicate that the one network element is not of interest to the first client.

50. (New) The communication system of claim 46, wherein the plurality of clients comprise at least a first client and a second client, wherein the first client is configured to transmit a message to the EMS in response to a closing of a graphical user interface (GUI) by a user, and wherein the EMS is configured to update, in response to the message, the client profile data to indicate that at least one of the first plurality of the network elements is not of interest to the first client.

51. (New) The communication system of claim 50, wherein the GUI is defined by GUI code transmitted to the first client from the EMS.

52. (New) The communication system of claim 46, wherein the EMS is further configured to store status data indicative of a respective state for each of the first plurality of the network elements, wherein the EMS in polling one of the first plurality of the network elements is configured to receive polled data indicative of a state of the one network element, wherein the EMS is configured to detect a change in the state of the one network element by comparing the polled data to the status data, and wherein the EMS is configured to transmit, based on the client profile data and in response to a detection of the change, a notification of the change to each of the clients interested in the one network element.

53. (New) The communication system of claim 52, wherein the plurality of clients comprise at least a first client and a second client, wherein the first client is configured to transmit, to the EMS, a request to receive a status update for the one network element, and wherein the EMS, in response to the request, is configured to transmit a message, based on the status data, indicative of a current state of the one network element without polling the one network element between reception of the request and transmission of the message.

54. (New) The communication system of claim 52, wherein the EMS is configured to update the status data in response to the detection of the change thereby defining a new instance of the client profile data.